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THE
ADDRESS

OF THE
R. CATHOLIC PRELATES

ASSEMBLED IN DUBLIN ON THE
26TH OF FEBRUARY, 1810,

TO THE
CLERGY AND LAITY

OF THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN
IRELAND.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED

*The Resolutions of the above Prelates on the 24th of the same
Month.*

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1810.



At a Meeting of the R. CATHOLIC PRELATES, assembled in Dublin, on the 24th inst. the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted :

1. **RESOLVED**, That it is the undoubted and exclusive right of Roman Catholic Bishops to discuss all matters appertaining to the Doctrines and Discipline of the Roman Catholic Church.
2. **RESOLVED**, That we do hereby confirm and declare our unaltered adherence to the Resolutions unanimously entered in to at our last General Meeting, on the 14th September, 1808.
3. **RESOLVED**, That we are convinced that the Oath of Allegiance framed and proposed by the Legislature itself, and taken by us, is not only an adequate security for our loyalty, but, that we know of no stronger pledge that we can possibly give.
4. **RESOLVED**, That having disclaimed upon Oath all right in the Pope, or any Foreign Potentate, to interfere in the Temporal Concerns of the Kingdom, an adherence to the practice observed in the appointment of Irish Roman Catholic Prelates cannot tend to produce an undue or mischievous exercise of any foreign influence whatsoever.
5. **RESOLVED**, That we neither seek nor desire any other earthly consideration for our Spiritual Ministry to our respective flocks, save what they may, from a sense of religion and duty, voluntarily afford us.
6. **RESOLVED**, That an Address, explanatory of these our sentiments, be prepared, and directed to the Roman Catholic Clergy and Laity of Ireland, and conveying such further instructions, as existing circumstances may seem to require.

At a Meeting of the R. CATHOLIC PRE-
LATES, assembled in Dublin, on the 24th inst.
the following Resolutions were unanimously
adopted:

1. Resolved, That it is the undoubted and exclusive right of
the Roman Catholic Bishops to discuss matters appertaining to
the Doctrine and Discipline of the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Resolved, That we do hereby confirm and declare our
unaltered adherence to the Resolutions unanimously entered in
to at our last General Meeting, on the 14th September, 1868.

3. Resolved, That we are convinced that the Oath of Allegiance
is a sacred and precious pledge, and taken
by us, is not only an adequate security for our loyalty, but that
we know of no stronger pledge that we can possibly give.

4. Resolved, That having declined upon Oath all right
the Pope or any Foreign Potentate, to interfere in the Temporal
Concerns of the Kingdom, an adherence to the practice of
in the appointment of Irish Roman Catholic Prelates, and
to produce an undue or mischievous exercise of episcopal
influence whatsoever.

5. Resolved, That we heartily seek not desire any other
early consideration for our spiritual liberty to conduct
ourselves, and that they may, from a sense of religion and duty,
voluntarily attend us.

6. Resolved, That an Address, expressive of
the same be presented, and delivered to the Hon. the Lord
and Lady of Ireland, and to the Government, and to
the existing or ministerial members of the House of Commons.

ADDRESS

TO THE

CLERGY AND LAITY

OF

The Roman Catholic Churches in Ireland,
&c. &c.



Reverend Brothers, Beloved Children, Peace be to you!

INASMUCH as we were called upon, by an alarm of danger to Religion, to speak our common sentiment at a former time, and accordingly did, on the 14th day of September, 1808, enter into and publish certain RESOLUTIONS, then judged necessary: and whereas the danger, we then hoped to avert, and the agitation which we laboured to quiet, have been renewed, and principles, disallowed by the Roman Catholic Church, are assiduously disseminated amongst the faithful, for an avowed purpose of innovation: moreover, whereas, amongst other vain things, it is pretended that the doctrines of their clergy, that is to say, the avowed doctrines of the R. C. Churches in Ireland, form the chief obstacle to the immediate attain-

ment, by Irish Catholic people, of all the advantages of the constitution ; (an argument by which, if even true, our forefathers would not have been tempted to waver ; for they knew that their Faith, if true, was also immortal ; and that their perseverance in that Faith, enlivened by Charity, would conduct them to a glorious and everlasting inheritance :) And, whereas it is most necessary to admonish our flocks, lest that Providence, which has carried onward their paternal Faith, through meritorious constancy, to the verge of freedom, henceforth abandon us, in the last moment of temptation, in punishment of yielding to unbelief and contradiction, now that we are relieved, by the mercy of law, from positive suffering :

Invoking the name of Christ, and having only God before our eyes, we have discussed and considered several points of R. Catholic Religion and Doctrine, comprised in these following Resolutions :

1. RESOLVED, That it appertains to the order, charge, and spiritual authority of Bishops in the Catholic Church, and is inseparable from their mission, to propose, entertain, and judge, without any lay intervention, on points of Christian Faith and of general discipline ; whereby the Universal Church is connected into one mind and one body, as the body of Christ.

2. **RESOLVED**, That we do hereby confirm and declare our unaltered adherence to the Resolutions unanimously entered into at our last General Meeting, on the 14th of September, 1808 *.

3. **RESOLVED**, That the Oath of Allegiance, which, under the provisions of an Irish act of parliament, enacted in that behalf, is tendered to, and is taken by his Majesty's Irish Roman Catholic subjects, was agreed to and approved by all the R. C. Bishops in Ireland, after long and conscientious discussion, and consultation had with several Catholic Universities and individual authorities throughout Europe ; and that said oath contains such ample declaration of civil faith and attachment, such total and explicit abjuration of all foreign pretensions, whether spiritual or temporal, to intermeddle in the civil establishments or laws of this part of his Majesty's dominions, and such authentic protestation of our doctrines in the only matter then affording ground for slander or jealousy, as that

* **RESOLVED**, That it is the decided opinion of the Roman Catholic Prelates of Ireland, here assembled, that it is inexpedient to introduce any alteration in the canonical mode hitherto observed in the nomination of Irish Roman Catholic Bishops ; which mode by long experience has proved to be unexceptionable, wise, and salutary.

RESOLVED, That the Roman Catholic Prelates pledge themselves to adhere to the rule by which they have been hitherto uniformly guided ; namely, to recommend to his Holiness only such persons as candidates for vacant Bishoprics, as are of unimpeachable loyalty and peaceable conduct.

said oath furnishes a security, such as we believe is not demanded by any other state from native subjects, and beyond which no pledge can be effectual, short of the overthrow of our consciences, or such other perpetual and public degradation of our communion, as will tend to disquiet the government, notwithstanding an ostensible emancipation, by the sense of indignity on the one hand, and by the continuance of suspicion on the other.

4. RESOLVED, That said Oath, and the promises, declarations, abjurations, and protestations therein contained, are notoriously to the Roman Catholic Church at large become a part of the Roman Catholic Religion, as taught by us, the Bishops, and received and maintained by the Roman Catholic Churches in Ireland; and, as such, are approved and sanctioned by the other Roman Catholic Churches. So that it appears to us utterly impossible that any way is left to any foreign authority; whereby the allegiance of Irish Catholics can be assailed, unless by that, which God avert, by open invasion; in which extreme supposition, as we will persevere by God's grace to do our duty, so we have certain hope, that every true son of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland will eagerly prove, how well his Religion can stand with the most heroic allegiance.

5. RESOLVED, That the Roman Catholic

Church teaches, that of the Christian polity, a most essential part is the principle and tendency of an unceasing communication in divine things amongst all the faithful; of which even the temporary suspension is a misfortune to mankind, but the perpetual abrogation by human law must be considered by us as manifest oppression of conscience.

6. **RESOLVED,** That this immoveable doctrine neither contradicts the duty, nor impedes the zeal of the most faithful and generous attachment to Kings and to lawful authorities, but, on the contrary, exalts this duty to a divine station; because our Religion, of which that communion is the bond, teaches fidelity above temptation, unexampled obedience to laws, and that, in all human duties, we must surpass, for conscience sake, the measure of them, who serve merely for reward, or through fear.

7. **RESOLVED,** That the Primacy of the Roman Catholic Church is known, of fact, to have devolved on his Holiness Pius VII. now, as we have reason to believe, a secluded prisoner in the hands of the public enemy; but that such his imprisonment is not a deposition, nor does it amount to a deposition; because no Bishop may rightfully be put down from his rank, unless by voluntary resignation, or canonical judgment; and the rank of the Bishop of Rome being sole and

single, imports, in the term, its inherent authority, which is not subject to any portion of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, however respectable, or to any lay Catholic authority, however extensively or even universally predominant.

8. RESOLVED, That in his said Holiness, his captivity notwithstanding, the right still abides of giving communion and confirmation to Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church; whereby Bishops, so confirmed, are recognized by one another, and by the Church at large; and that such condition is become a landmark of the Catholic discipline and ecclesiastical peace throughout all the churches.

9. RESOLVED, That the spirit of fellow-suffering, with the afflicted Church of Christ, and of abhorrence of the misdeed, by which the salutary function of the Papal See has been intercepted, through open violence against the meekest of men; as well as the sentiment of duty, fraternity, and reverence towards our guiltless Brother and Spiritual Chief, forbid us to take up, as spoils, any part of the right of the Apostolic See, so invaded, violated, and trodden down, for a time, by sacrilege.

10. RESOLVED, That by an act of the same day with these presents, and encyclical to the R. C. Churches, we have judged, concluded,

and declared, that, during the public captivity of his said Holiness, and until his freedom shall have been unequivocally manifested by some act, not merely of approbation or cession, we refuse, send back and reprobate; and, moreover, for ourselves, we annul and cancel as to any effect, all briefs, or pretended briefs, bulls, or pretended bulls, rescripts, even as of his proper motion, and certain knowledge, bearing title as from his said Holiness, and purporting to be declaratory of his free, or of any resignation of the papal office; and that, during the said captivity of Pius VII. we will account the years of his Pontificate, and of no other.

11. RESOLVED, That if it should please God, that his said Holiness should die, as now, a prisoner, we will continue to account the Holy See vacant, until full information and canonical proof shall be had by us of the free, canonical and due election of his Successor.

12. RESOLVED, That before the date of an Irish act of Parliament, giving the last relief to his Majesty's Roman Catholic Subjects, and from that to this present time, the recommendation of us Bishops, when concurring, had been progressively advancing in weight and authority with the Holy See; and, as we believe, principally from the following cause; that we were known to be at once at-

tached to our lawful Government, and attached to the Roman Catholic Faith; neither sacrificing our religion to worldly hopes, nor making this freedom of conscience a cloak for malice; but inculcating religious and social duties, in the name of one God, the Founder of both.

13. RESOLVED, That by the course latterly adhered to, two benefits were obtained, and were in progress to become a part of our Ecclesiastical system; the one, that the choice of persons to fill the office of Bishops, effectively originated from, and was circumscribed by us, so far at least as to make it inaccessible to any foreign temporal influence, or corrupt recommendation. The other advantage was this: that it held out our Hierarchy to the world at large, as purely selected; and has obtained a distinction, which ultimately redounded to the honour of the tolerating spirit of his present Majesty's Government.

14. RESOLVED, That any change, at present, in our ecclesiastical appointments, expressly innovating upon our Religious Discipline, on the ground of its being perilous to the state, because Roman Catholic, and this without a single instance of danger incurred, must at once degrade our Church in the estimation of Europe; as dishonouring its most prevailing Christian Belief, by our implied acquiescence in a charge of its inadequacy to

maintain the most perfect social faith; and must prejudice at home the interests of the public cause, by disabling our authority, which is, and has been, and will ever be exerted in that cause.

15. RESOLVED, That the idea of making the Elections of Bishops entirely national, by confining said election to Chapters alone, or to Chapters and Metropolitans, is superseded by the matters and considerations of the three last Resolutions; is, moreover, not within our competence; and though it had been free of the guilt of Schism, would, in the present circumstances of the Irish Catholics, subject our Religion to the most serious and unseemly disadvantages; and in our judgment, would most probably lapse into the sole and positive appointment of the Crown.

16. RESOLVED, That as to arrangements regarding our Church, and said to be intended for accompanying a proposal of the Emancipation of Irish Roman Catholics, prudence, and a regard for our duty forbid us to pronounce a judgment; whereas those rumoured arrangements have not been ascertained by us through any channel. However, we declare, that no spirit of conciliation has been ever wanting on our part; that we seek for nothing beyond the mere integrity and safety of the Roman Catholic Religion, in its Christian Faith and Communion, and in

its essential discipline, subordination and moral code: nor may we be justly reproached for our solicitude in guarding those sacred things, for which we are bound to watch, and bear testimony with our lives, if required.

Which RESOLUTIONS we have also approved, and make known to you, that you may hold firm the anchor of Faith, and the hope of God, and the true Doctrines of the Gospel; to which adhering, you will prosper. Once more, Reverend Brothers and Beloved Children, Peace be with you! *Amen.*

Richard O'Reilly. J. T. Troy. Thomas Bray.

Francis Moylan.

P. Joseph Plunket.

James Caulfield.

Daniel Delany.

Edmund French.

William Coppinger.

James Lanigan.

John Young.

John Cruise.

Patrick Macmullen.

Charles O'Donnel.

Charles Sughrue.

Peter MacLoughlin.

Edmund Derry.

James Murphy.

John Power.

James O'Shaughnessy.

Francis C. O'Reilly.

Florence M'Carthy,

Patrick Ryan.

Daniel Murray.

Oliver O'Kelly,

V. C. Tuam.



At a Meeting of the GENERAL COMMITTEE of the CATHOLICS of IRELAND, held at D'Arcy's, in Earl Street, Dublin, on the 2d of March, unanimously and respectably attended by the different Members from ALL PARTS OF IRELAND,

The Lord FFRENCH in the Chair.

The Most Rev. Doctor Murray read to the Committee a written communication from the Catholic Prelates of Ireland.

It was unanimously resolved, That the Thanks of the Committee are due, and are hereby given, to the Most Rev. and Right Rev. the Catholic Prelates of Ireland, for the communication now made to us, through the Most Rev. Doctor Murray, and the Rev. Doctor Hamil.

That the Thanks of the Meeting are due, and are hereby given, to the Most Rev. Doctor Murray, and the Rev. Doctor Hamil, for making that communication.

That, as Irishmen and as Catholics, we never can consent to any dominion or controul whatsoever, over the appointment of our Prelates, on the part of the Crown or of the Servants of the Crown.


That the Thanks of the Committee are hereby given to Daniel O'Connell, Esq. for his faithful discharge of the duty of Secretary.

FFRENCH, Chairman.

THOMAS FITZGERALD, Esq. in the Chair.

It was unanimously resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting are due, and are hereby given, to Lord FFrench, for his proper and dignified conduct in the Chair.

THOMAS FITZGERALD.

 The foregoing Resolutions were transmitted for publication to EDWARD HAY, Esq. Secretary to the Catholics of Ireland, deputed to meet the EARL of FINGALL in London with the Catholic Petitions, since presented to both Houses of Parliament.

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London.

